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Serial No.: 10/764,742

2

BEST AVAILABLE COPYAMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings in the application:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A device for instructing mathematics, comprising:

a work surface;

a frame around the work surface, the frame defining an abutment boundary for positioning of the movable elements; and

a plurality of movable elements, each of the movable elements comprising, on a front surface thereof, at least a portion of a visible mathematical symbol thereon readable via eyesight, each of the movable elements further comprising Braille indicia on the front surface thereof corresponding to the at least a portion of the visible mathematical symbol, each of the movable elements further comprises an attachment member on a rearward surface to attach the moveable element to the work surface, the attachment member being adapted to allow the moveable element to be removed from the work surface and to be slidably positionable to generally any position on the work surface once attached thereto; the working surface having sufficient surface area to provide for positioning a plurality of the moveable elements around at least a portion of a perimeter of the work surface bounded by the frame from which the moveable element can be slid to form a standard mathematical expression.

2. (CANCELED)

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device of claim [[2]] 1 wherein magnetic attraction is used to maintain the attachment member in movable connection with the board.

ROGER P. WOLF et al.
Serial No.: 10/764,742

3

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device of claim [[3]] 1 wherein the visible symbols on the movable elements are enlarged so as to be visible by a visually impaired person.

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5. (CANCELED)

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device of claim [[5]] 1 wherein a plurality movable elements are provided having the same symbol thereon for at least a portion of the symbols.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device of claim 6 wherein each of the plurality of movable elements having a like symbol thereon is stored positioned in a group around the perimeter of the work surface, each of the groups of movable elements having a like symbol thereon being spaced in position from the other groups.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device of claim 6 wherein each of the plurality of movable element having a like symbol thereon is stored positioned in a stacked group around the perimeter of the work surface, each of the stacked groups of movable elements having a like symbol thereon being spaced in position from the other groups.

9. (ORIGINAL) The device of claim 4 wherein the movable elements are stored in a multicompartiment storage container, each movable element with a different symbol thereon being stored in a separate compartment of the storage container.

10. (ORIGINAL) The device of claim 9 wherein a plurality movable elements are provided having the same symbol thereon for at least a portion of the symbols.

11. (ORIGINAL) The device of claim 10 wherein each of the plurality of movable elements having a like symbol thereon is stored in a group in a separate compartment within the storage container.

ROGER P. WOLF et al.
Serial No.: 10/764,742

4

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device of claim 3 wherein the Braille indicia are Nemeth Braille indicia.

13. (CANCELLED).

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14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device of claim [[13]] 12 wherein a plurality movable elements are provided having the same symbol thereon for at least a portion of the symbols.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device of claim 14 wherein each of the plurality of movable elements having a like symbol thereon is stored positioned in a group around the perimeter of the work surface, each of the groups of movable elements having a like symbol thereon being spaced in position from the other groups.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device of claim 14 wherein each of the plurality of movable elements having like symbols thereon is stored positioned in a stacked group around the perimeter of the work surface, each of the stacked groups of movable elements being spaced in position from the other groups.

17. (ORIGINAL) The device of claim 12 wherein the movable elements are stored in a multicompartiment storage container, each movable element with a different symbol thereon being stored in a separate compartment of the storage container.

18. (ORIGINAL) The device of claim 17 wherein a plurality movable elements are provided having the same symbol thereon for at least a portion of the symbols.

19. (ORIGINAL) The device of claim 18 wherein each group of the plurality of movable elements having a like symbol thereon is stored in a separate compartment within the storage container.

ROGER P. WOLF et al.
Serial No.: 10/764,742

5

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20. (ORIGINAL) The device of claim 1 wherein the visible symbols include numerals from 0 to 9, a plus sign, a minus sign, a multiplication sign, a division sign, an equal sign, and at least one type of bar for representing processes.

21. (ORIGINAL) The device of claim 20 wherein the symbols further include a decimal point, a question mark and a remainder symbol.

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for instructing mathematics, comprising:

providing a work surface to a student, the work surface comprising a frame around the work surface, the frame defining an abutment boundary for positioning of the movable elements;

providing a plurality of movable elements for use in connection with the work surface, each of the movable elements comprising on a front surface thereof at least a portion of a visible symbol readable via eyesight, each of the movable elements further comprising Braille indicia on the front surface thereof corresponding to the at least a portion of the visible mathematical symbol, each of the moveable elements further comprising an attachment member on a rearward surface to attach the moveable element to the work surface, the attachment member being adapted to allow the moveable element to be removed from the work surface and to be slidably positionable to any position on the work surface once attached thereto; and

positioning a plurality of the moveable elements around at least a portion of a perimeter of the surface bounded by the frame from which the moveable element can be slid to form a standard mathematical expression.

23. (CANCELLED)

24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim [[23]] 22 wherein magnetic attraction is used to maintain the attachment member in movable connection with the board.

ROGER P. WOLF et al.
Serial No.: 10/764,742

6

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25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim [[24]] 22 wherein the visible symbols on the movable elements are enlarged so as to be visible by a visually impaired person.

26. (CANCELLED)

27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim [[26]] 22 wherein a plurality movable elements are provided having the same symbol thereon for at least a portion of the symbols.

28. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 27 wherein each of the plurality of movable elements having a like symbol thereon is ~~stored~~ positioned in a group around the perimeter of the work surface, each of the groups of movable elements having a like symbol thereon being spaced in position from the other groups.

29. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 27 wherein each of the plurality of movable elements having a like symbol thereon is ~~stored~~ positioned in a stacked group around the perimeter of the work surface, each of the stacked groups of movable elements having a like symbol thereon being spaced in position from the other groups.

30. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim [[25]] 22 further comprising the step of storing the movable elements in a multicompartment storage container, each movable element with a different symbol thereon being stored in a separate compartment of the storage container.

31. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 30 wherein a plurality movable elements are provided having the same symbol thereon for at least a portion of the symbols.

ROGER P. WOLF et al.
Serial No.: 10/764,742

7

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32. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 31 wherein each group of the plurality of movable elements having a like symbol thereon is stored in a separate compartment within the storage container.

33. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim [[24]] 22 wherein the Braille indicia are Nemeth Braille indicia.

34. (CANCELLED)

35. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim [[34]] 33 wherein a plurality movable elements are provided having the same symbol thereon for at least a portion of the symbols.

36. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 35 wherein each of the plurality of movable element having a like symbol thereon is stored positioned in a group around the perimeter of the work surface, each of the groups of movable elements having a like symbol thereon being spaced in position from the other groups.

37. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 35 wherein each of the plurality of movable element having a like symbol thereon is stored positioned in a stacked group around the perimeter of the work surface, each of the stacked groups of movable elements having a like symbol thereon being spaced in position from the other groups.

38. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 33 wherein the movable elements are stored in a multicompartment storage container, each movable element with a different symbol thereon being stored in a separate compartment of the storage container.

39. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 38 wherein a plurality movable elements are provide having the same symbol thereon for at least a portion of the symbols.

ROGER P. WOLF et al.
Serial No.: 10/764,742

8

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40. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 39 wherein each group of the plurality of movable element having a like symbol thereon is stored in a separate compartment within the storage container.

41. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 40 wherein the visible symbols include numerals from 0 to 9, a plus sign, a minus sign, a multiplication sign, a division sign, an equal sign, and at least one type bar for representing processes.

42. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 41 wherein the symbols further include a decimal point, a question mark and a remainder symbol.

43. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of teaching mathematics in a class of students including at least one sighted student and at least one visually impaired student, comprising:

creating mathematical equations on a display for viewing by the sighted student;

providing a work surface to a visually impaired student, the work surface comprising a frame around the work surface, the frame defining an abutment boundary for positioning of the movable elements;

providing a plurality of movable elements for use in connection with the work surface, each of the movable elements comprising, on a front surface thereof, at least a portion of a visible mathematical symbol thereon readable via eyesight, each of the movable elements further comprising an attachment member on a rearward surface to attach the moveable element to the work surface, the attachment member being adapted to allow the movable element to be removed from the work surface and to be slidably positionable to any position on the work surface once attached thereto;

positioning a plurality of the moveable elements around at least a portion of a perimeter of the work surface bounded by the frame from which the moveable element can be slid to form a standard mathematical expression; and

ROGER P. WOLF et al.
Serial No.: 10/764,742

9

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having the visually impaired student construct mathematical equations on the work surface which are displayed upon the display using the symbols of the movable elements by sliding moveable elements from the perimeter of the work surface to form an appropriate arrangement of the movable elements, the mathematical equations constructed by the visually impaired student being of substantially the same form as the mathematical equations created upon the display.

44. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 43 wherein magnetic attraction is used to maintain the attachment member in movable connection with the board.

45. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim [[44]] 43 wherein the visible symbols on the movable elements are enlarged so as to be visible by the visually impaired student.

46. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 44 wherein each of the movable elements further comprises indicia on the front surface thereof corresponding to the visible symbol that is readable via the sense of touch to identify the visible symbol.

47. (CANCELLED)

48. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim [[47]] 43 wherein a plurality movable elements are provided having the same symbol thereon for at least a portion of the symbols.

49. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 48 wherein each of the plurality of movable elements having a like symbol thereon is ~~stere~~ positioned in a group around the perimeter of the work surface, each of the groups of movable elements having a like symbol thereon being spaced in position from the other groups.

50. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 48 wherein each of the plurality of movable elements having like symbols thereon is ~~stere~~

ROGER P. WOLF et al.
Serial No.: 10/764,742

10

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positioned in a stacked group around the perimeter of the work surface, each of the stacked groups of movable elements being spaced in position from the other groups.

51. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 48 wherein the movable elements are stored in a multicompartment storage container, each movable element with a different symbol thereon being stored in a separate compartment of the storage container.

52. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 51 wherein a plurality movable elements are provided having the same symbol thereon for at least a portion of the symbols.

53. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 52 wherein each group of the plurality of movable elements having a like symbol thereon is stored in a separate compartment within the storage container.